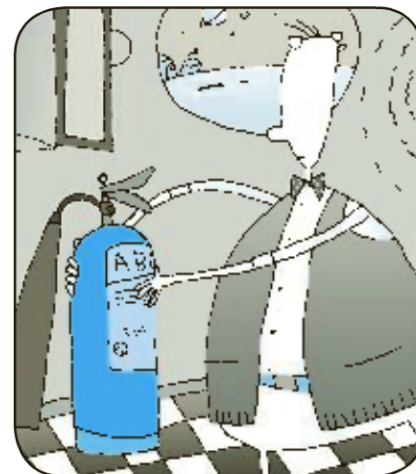


# Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

There are two types of action verbs—transitive and intransitive. **Transitive** verbs “transfer” their action to a direct object (and sometimes to an indirect object). The direct object completes the meaning of the sentence, as in the examples that follow. An **intransitive** verb completes its meaning without an object. (See 778.2, 778.3, and 780.1 in *Texas Write Source* for more information.)



## Examples

*Transitive Verb:*

The teacher **handed** me the extinguisher.

A **direct object** receives the direct action of the verb. It answers the question *who* or *what* after the verb. The teacher handed me what? (“extinguisher”—direct object)

An **indirect object** is indirectly affected by the verb. It tells *to whom* or *for whom* something is done. The teacher handed the extinguisher to whom? (“me”—indirect object)

*Intransitive Verb:*

Everyone in our class **walked** quietly down the hall.

An intransitive verb does not need to transfer its action to a direct object to complete the thought. In this sentence, the verb “walked” is intransitive and does not have a direct object.

## Directions

Write “T” in front of sentences with transitive verbs and “I” in front of sentences with intransitive verbs. Underline each verb twice; for each transitive verb, circle the direct object. The first one has been done for you.

- T   1. Students sometimes set off fire alarms by accident.
2. Yesterday’s alarm rang for five minutes.
3. The principal gave specific instructions over the P.A.
4. Students and teachers placed their books on their desks.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Teachers hurriedly ushered students into the hall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. They counted the students as they left the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Out in the hall, smoke poured from the ductwork.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Surprisingly, nobody panicked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The students followed directions carefully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. They filed out to their designated areas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Students had learned good habits from previous fire drills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The fire was burning in one of the shop classes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. A student had started a lawn mower with the gas cap off.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Gasoline spilled onto the engine and burst into flames.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The fire spread quickly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Some students felt a burning sensation in their eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. They heard sirens from the street.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. A rescue vehicle arrived at the same time as the fire truck.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Firefighters hurried into the building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The fire was soon extinguished, but by then most of the school  
was filled with smoke.

**Next Step** Some verbs, such as *break*, *freeze*, and *sing*, can be either transitive or intransitive. Choose one of those verbs and write a sentence using it as a transitive verb. Then write another sentence using it as an intransitive verb.